

# *News from the Wyoming Department of Health*

Thursday, June 4, 2009

## **Statement Regarding Budget Reductions**

Dr. Brent Sherard, Wyoming Department of Health director and state health officer, released the following statement regarding budget reductions announced today by Governor Dave Freudenthal:

“The budget reductions announced today are unfortunate, but are no surprise at this point in light of the state’s revenue situation.

“Roughly 90 percent of our budget is dedicated to direct patient care through EqualityCare (Medicaid), our five state healthcare facilities, mental health services and other similar activities. In preparing our slate of potential budget reductions as requested by the governor, we looked for improved efficiency where we could while maintaining the critical services we provide for Wyoming residents.

“Maintaining access to quality medical care for those in our state who need help remains something we’re committed to. We carefully analyzed our recommendations in the hope of minimizing the impacts to our clients and to Wyoming’s healthcare providers.

“Our next steps are to further analyze the specifics of these reductions and to communicate with affected clients and providers.”

#####